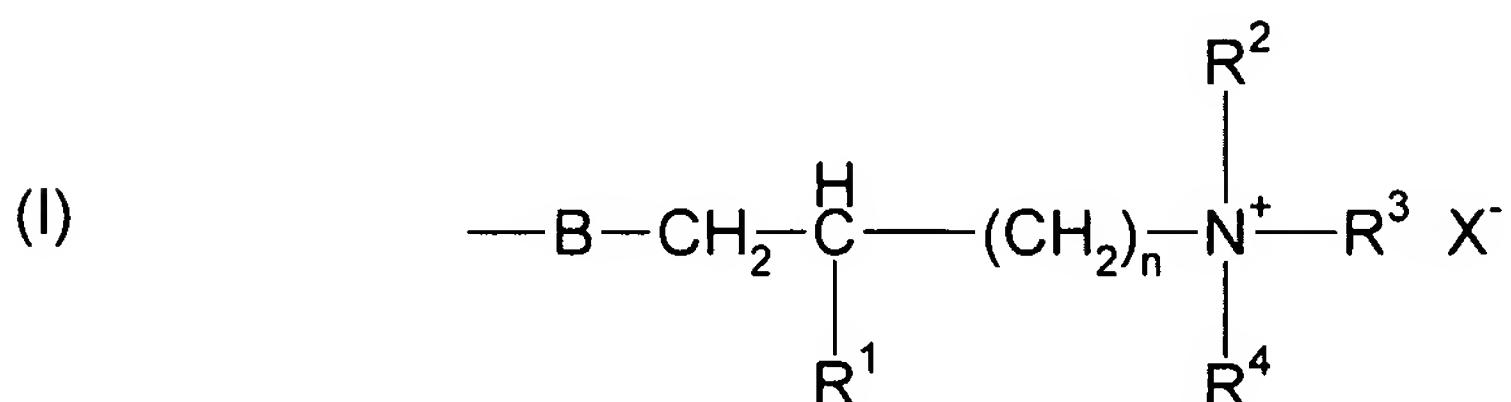


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) A paper comprising a filler and a cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether comprises a quaternary ammonium group, with the proviso that the cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.

2. (original) The paper according to claim 1 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H or OH, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different and are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkaryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyalkyl, and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyaryl groups, or R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion.

3. (currently amended) The paper according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.

4. (currently amended) The paper according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.

5. (original) A paper coating comprising cellulose ether wherein the cellulose ether comprises a quaternary ammonium group.

6. (new) The paper according to claim 2 wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.
7. (new) The paper according to claim 2 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.
8. (new) The paper coating according to claim 5 wherein said cellulose ether is not a hydroxyethyl cellulose.
9. (new) The paper coating according to claim 8 wherein the quaternary ammonium group is represented by the formula:
- (I)
- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^2 \\ | \\ \text{---B---CH}_2\text{---C---(CH}_2)_n\text{---N}^+\text{---R}^3\text{---X}^- \\ | \\ \text{R}^1 \\ | \\ \text{R}^4 \end{array}$$
- wherein R<sup>1</sup> is H or OH, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are the same or different and are selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aryl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> aralkyl, C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkaryl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> cycloalkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyalkyl, and C<sub>7</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> alkoxyaryl groups, or R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, and the quaternary nitrogen atom form an aliphatic or aromatic heterocyclic ring; n is an integer of 1 to 4, B is attached to the backbone of the cellulose ether and selected from O, OC(O), C(O)O, C(O)-NH, NHC(O), S, OSO<sub>3</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>, NH, or NR<sup>5</sup>, wherein R<sup>5</sup> is a C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> acyl or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl radical, and X<sup>-</sup> is an anion.
10. (new) The paper coating according to claim 9 wherein the cellulose ether has a DS of quaternary ammonium groups of between 0.01 and 0.7.
11. (new) The paper coating according to claim 9 wherein the cellulose ether further has a DS of carboxymethyl groups of between 0.05 and 1.0.